AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1-45 (cancelled)

46. (withdrawn) A method of filtering contaminates from a fluid used in an internal combustion engine, comprising the steps of:

spinning a filter within a stationary filter housing; and

creating a low pressure region between said filter and said filter housing, thereby reducing an energy level to spin said filter.

47. (withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein said creating step reduces air resistance of said filter as said filter spins.

48. (withdrawn) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of coupling a DC motor to said filter, said DC motor effecting said spinning of said filter.

49. (withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein said DC motor is a brushless DC motor.

50. (withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein said DC motor has a current draw of less than 15 amperes.

51. (withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein said low pressure region is created by one of a venturi, an aspirating device, an ejector and an eductor.

52. (withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein said filter spins at a rate of between 4,000 and 25,000 revolutions per minute.

53. (withdrawn) The method of claim 52, wherein said rate is between 5,000 and 20,000 revolutions per minute.

54. (withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein said rate is between 10,000 and 20,000 revolutions per minute.

55. (withdrawn) The method of claim 54, further comprising the step of coupling a DC motor to said filter, said DC motor effecting said spinning of said filter, said DC motor having a current draw of less than 15 amperes.

56. (currently amended) A filter assembly for filtering contaminants from a fluid used in an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a non-rotating filter housing having an inner surface;

a filter disposed within said housing, said filter being rotatable relative to said housing about an axis of rotation, said filter having an end with holes extending through said end, said holes being displaced from said axis of rotation, the fluid being in fluid communication ~~contact~~ with a ~~substantial~~ portion of said inner surface of said non-rotating filter housing and with said filter; and

a DC motor coupled to said filter spinning said filter at a rotational speed of between approximately 4,000 and 25,000 revolutions per minute about said axis of rotation.

57. (previously presented) The filter assembly of claim 56, further comprising an electrical controller configured for adjusting said rotational speed.

58. (previously presented) The filter assembly of claim 56, wherein said DC motor is a brushless DC motor.

59. (previously presented) The filter assembly of claim 56, further comprising a vacuum device coupled to said non-rotating filter housing, said vacuum device causing a low pressure region to exist between said filter and said non-rotating filter housing.

60. (previously presented) The filter assembly of claim 59, wherein said vacuum device is one of a venturi, an aspirating device, an ejector and an eductor.

61. (previously presented) The filter assembly of claim 59, wherein said vacuum device reduces air resistance of said filter as said DC motor spins said filter.

62. (previously presented) The filter assembly of claim 61, further comprising an engine electrical system from which said DC motor draws less than 15 amperes.

63. (previously presented) The filter assembly of claim 56, wherein said rotational speed is between 5,000 and 20,000 revolutions per minute.

64. (previously presented) The filter assembly of claim 63, wherein said rotational speed is between 10,000 and 20,000 revolutions per minute.

65. (new) The filter assembly of claim 56, wherein said holes are located approximately half-way between said axis of rotation and an outer surface of said filter.